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# Virginia in-state college costs up 40% since 2006

By Shirleen Guerra | The Center Square  
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(The Center Square) – Attending a public university in Virginia now costs about \$30,000 a year for in-state students, up 40% from 2006 after inflation, state data show.

The average cost for tuition, fees and room and board at a four-year public college is \$29,538 a year. In 2006 the average was about \$21,000, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

Costs vary by campus. The College of William and Mary is the most expensive, rising from \$25,061 in 2006 to \$43,057 this year, **according to the data**. Virginia State University is the least expensive, moving from \$19,703 to \$23,270 over the same period.

Other schools also recorded steady increases.

Christopher Newport University rose from \$23,277 to \$29,975. James Madison University went from \$20,857 to \$28,139. George Mason University grew from \$21,036 to \$28,756. Virginia Commonwealth University increased from \$20,914 in 2006 to \$32,368 in 2025.

The Virginia Military Institute climbed from \$24,625 to \$33,016.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia **reported** that tuition and mandatory fees rose another 2.7% this year, while room and board increased 3.7%. SCHEV estimates students now cover 42% of their educational costs while the commonwealth pays 58%, short of Virginia’s cost-share target of 67%. Tuition could have been about \$1,900 lower if that benchmark had been met according to documents.

Students who earn an associate degree at a Virginia community college before transferring can cut nearly \$22,000 from the price of a bachelor’s degree, SCHEV reported.

Rising costs are linked to broader financial pressures for students. A WalletHub analysis released July 30, found **Virginia ranked 14th nationally** for the largest increase in student loan delinquencies. The share of delinquent loans rose 27% between late 2024 and early 2025.



Nationally, student loan delinquency has been climbing since the end of the COVID-19 repayment pause. For Virginia, the data highlights how tuition increases and repayment challenges are occurring at the same time.

SCHEV noted that community college remains the lowest-cost option, averaging \$5,049 a year. At the other end of the scale, tuition and mandatory fees at William and Mary total nearly \$26,500 for 2025–26.

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Reporter

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